



(a) SEQ ID NO: 1 or the complement thereof;

(b) a sequence from SEQ ID NO:1 that corresponds to either the 1.7 kb fragment of SEQ ID NO: 1 delineated by restriction sites Sal1 and AlwN1 or nucleotides 1 to 1800 of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(c) a sequence that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3 or a polypeptide at least 70% homologous thereto, the latter polypeptide having the activity of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3;

(d) a sequence according to feature (c) that is a fragment from SEQ ID NO: 1 corresponding to position 273 to 1184 or a fragment from SEQ ID NO: 1 corresponding to position 1181 to 1438; or

(e) a sequence that is at least 70% homologous to a sequence as defined under (a), (b) or (d), over a region of at least 100 contiguous nucleotides;

and a sequence that is an endogenous gene of a *Propionibacterium* assisting in the production of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> operatively linked to a control sequence which is capable of providing for expression of the gene.

29. Deleted

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39. A process according to claim 2, wherein the endogenous gene of a

*Propionibacterium* is the *cobA* gene.

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**REMARKS:**

Claims 28 and 29 are pending in this application. Claim 28 has been amended. Claim 29 has been deleted. Claim 39 has been added. No new matter has been added to the application by way of any claim amendments. A marked-up version of these claim